

# 3 FOLD CORD

Building Lasting Marriages on a Firm Foundation

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## *Weekly Devotional*

WEEK NINE -

### *Share & Share Alike*

*And further, submit to one another in reverence of Christ*  
Ephesians 5:21 (NLT)

Submission is a topic that has been given a terrible reputation and has caused untold commotion in more than a few marriages. We should ask ourselves why are we so afraid to submit to one another? Are we afraid of giving up freedom or independence? Have we had a bad experience in a previous relationship? Both may have some credibility to the why behind our what and yet we are called by God to submit to each other in the marriage union.

If we take Scripture in proper context, then submission should be a joyful experience because in submission, we are not left to our own understanding, and our own limited knowledge in situations. We have graciously been given someone who loves us, knows us and is on our side to help us in the matters of everyday life, in the gift of our spouse. Ultimately, we are *both* supposed to be trusting and seeking the One who ordained and purposed for submission to be put in place. We are both to look to *God* regularly for direction and subsequently consider the input and concerns of our spouse to keep unity, peace, and order within the home. It's like a built-in support system to keep things in proper order and running

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smoothly. Mutual submission is how every marriage should function, with nothing done independently of the other.

I learned from an older pastor that in submission, it's one day, one hour, one minute at a time, like taking turns. I lead, then in another way, my wife leads and neither of us will get bent out of shape because it was our turn. As you begin to notice the benefits that mutual submission brings, you may actually begin to count on one another, anticipate and invite the mutual input and support of your spouse.

If we are being conscious of the knowledge that God is operating in our lives for good, then let's let faith arise and every day submit to *Him* first and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us to be better mates for our spouses mutually supporting them. Submission is a good thing if we are doing it God's way.

*Two are better than one,  
Because they have a good reward for their labor.  
For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.  
But woe to him who is alone when he falls,  
For he has no one to help him up.  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NKJV)*